

Tyler Junior College News

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Press freedom important

by Ashley Tompkins
page editor

Freedom of Press is one of the First Amendment rights of all United States citizens. Journalists have the right to print news that the reader should know. But can they go too far?

TJC President Dr. Bill Crowe spoke to journalism students about their right to press freedom and how it relates to the college as a whole.

"The newspaper offers a voice to the students. It is an educational process that you each learn a lot from," Dr. Crowe said late last semester. "I've never censored this newspaper, which presidents have the right to do, because I felt that you were learning from your mistakes."

"That's what is important. I know I have learned a lot more from my mistakes than from the things that I did right," he said.

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"Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what your gonna get."

Forrest Gump

While writing stories and publishing a newspaper is a learning experience, Dr. Crowe said journalism students do not fully understand Freedom of Press.

"You are not free to publish anything that you want. There is always someone over you whether it's (Publications Director) Mrs. Zeigler or your boss when you graduate. Someone else always has the final word of whether the information is printed or not," he said

The editors requested the meeting with Dr. Crowe after receiving several letters critical of articles they had published in the TJC News.

Dr. Crowe said readers do not fully understand where the writer is coming from and that sometimes causes them to be upset.

"The readers do not know where you are coming from," he said. "They don't know if you are being serious or sarcastic."

While Dr. Crowe has never exercised his power to censor articles in the student run newspaper, he said he would do so only if a story put another student, faculty or staff members life in danger. Zeigler explained that he does not see the newspaper before it is published.

"If the article will put someone in danger or affect the college in the long run, then, yes, I would censor that story. I can censor an article, but I cannot stop a student from making a flier and passing it out to other students on campus. I do not own those fliers, but technically, as president of the College, I own the newspaper," he said.



Photo by Clay Bransom
Students found nicer weather last week, after returning to cold and wet weather during the first weeks of the semester.

REMEMBER THIS

Students who got Incomplete grades last semester have until Thursday, Feb. 15, to finish final exams. Otherwise the course grade becomes an F. They should contact their instructor for help.

Lack of sleep affects students

by Brook Jennings
staff writer

Doctors say a person needs at least six hours of good sleep each night to function well the next day. Most college students miss that goal. Out of 15 students interviewed, only two get the recommended hours of sleep.

Why don't students get enough sleep? Most said it's because they stay up to do their homework and study for tests.

Devin Wallace, a computer science major from Tyler, gets six hours of sleep a night. He lacks sleep because he said, "I'm flirting and basically talking on the phone."

Terrence Orange, a computer science major from Palm Beach, Fla. sleeps five hours a night. His sleepless nights are due to "too much noise around the dorms."

Does lack of sleep really matter? We've all seen the students in class with their heads on their desk, snoring. Those are the ones who don't get enough sleep.

Travis Hawthorne, a music major from Tyler who gets three to four hours of sleep a night, said it affected him and his work. "Just ask Mrs. Perkins, ask Mr. Simpson, or ask any of my teachers," he said.

What can you do if you don't get enough sleep? Doctors say sleeping late is not the way to make up for lost sleep. They recommend going to bed earlier and develop a regular sleeping pattern.

A regular sleeping pattern? Nothing is regular in a college student's life. They will just have to deal with the lack of sleep, studying for tests and flirting. After all, isn't that what college is all about?

Winter storm reschedules final exams

by Kenneth Dean
associate editor

As the fall semester ended, Jack Frost blew into town with surprising vengeance. An early December ice storm forced a change of schedule for finals, which caused confusion among TJC students and faculty.

Seventy percent of Tyler lost electricity when hundreds of trees fell, breaking power lines everywhere. The campus looked as though a bomb had been detonated.

"Some 597 students received an incomplete grade, most because of the weather," Dr. Bob Peters, liberal and fine arts dean, said.

During the semester break, snow fell on New Year's Eve, blanketing the East Texas area. The snow, the first measureable in a decade, was better received than the earlier ice storm.

The week the spring semester started, wintry weather returned as students searched for classes and labs in cold, unrelenting rain that fell for three days.

Dr. Peters, a local meteorologist explained the unusual weather.

"The southern jet stream," he said, "has been more active than the northern jet stream. The last few winters were mild, in part due to a tropical air mass over Texas. That kept us warm and dry."

What does the rest of the season look like?

"Models show more of the same," Dr. Peters said.

CAMPUS F•O•C•U•S

Did last week's rain affect your first days of spring semester?



Tisha Washington

"The rain made me lazy."



Troy Humphries

"Last week's weather gave me the flu."



Will Hackney

"Made me not want to come to school."



Lindsey Johnson

"It sucked, I hated it."



Lanisha King

"Thad to walk in the rain from dorm to campus then to work."

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The News accepts letters from readers in the college community. Letters must be signed and include writer's address and phone number. Editors reserve the right to select and edit letters in accordance with college policy, legal requirements and length.

Advertising and letters should be addressed to TJC News, P.O. Box 9020, Tyler, TX 75711.

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Mission trip gives new meaning to word 'help'

Hannah Buchanan
page editor

Most people trap themselves in a comfort zone, wishing not to break away from their own environment. They fear they will not feel comfortable, or fit in anywhere else.

Occasionally some may break away to do something worthwhile for someone in need. That's what mission trips are all about.

The first mission trip impacts and affects you the most, people said. On three mission trips, all to the same place — a little suburb of Laredo called Rio Bravo — I've learned many people take things for

granted, and what we have isn't everything — a person can still be joyful yet own so few material possessions.

The first year, my expectations were grim. I knew why we were going, but I was anxious, nervous, scared and excited at the same time. What I saw when I broke away from my comfort zone would be embedded in my mind for the rest of my life.

In Rio Bravo, and for the most communities along the Texas-Mexico border, the middle class does not exist. Miles and miles of shacks are built so close to each other, the residents don't know what backyards are.

They build their houses from anything they can get their hands on — pieces of wood, tin, plywood, metal, cardboard, wire.

A few miles from the shacks, the rich live in elegant houses, with beautiful furnishings in lovely settings.

Not only is the landscape in for South Texas different, but so are the people. During the evenings our mission group had leisure time. A few, mostly guys, played basketball on the court right outside of the Rio Bravo Baptist Church. The trip leaders always remind all the women to be with a male companion, while outside, at all times. This is for the women's

safety during evening hours.

Our groups would go shopping on Saturday. Sellers expect to bargain with customers before a sale is made. This experience is far different from going into a store and paying the marked price. The first year I stepped into a shop, I was in total shock! Since I wasn't used to this form of buying/shopping, I let a friend sweet-talk the sellers into lowering the price. Fortunately, not all of the shops around the tiny two story square work in this manner. Many of the shops which sell items such as sterling silver jewelry (my favorite), sell by marked prices.

please see mission page 7

Separation of church, state 'gray issue'

Michael Gibson
editor

As editor of the TJC News, my goal is to bring news that will affect students.

We get letters from people all over the country giving their points of view on different subjects. The other day we received an anonymous letter expressing his views of the Bible. At first I thought, "This has nothing to do with TJC at all." After rereading the letter several times, I realized it has a lot to do with us.

The Bill of Rights provides for the separation of church and state — meaning that no religion can be forced upon a person. I remember being able to pray before school began.

Now public prayer has been banned from public schools because some people believe that a certain belief is being forced upon their children.

But when you go to class, in public school or college, you find that religion is important. One example is history. Going back to the 14th century, religion was something those ancient cultures fought over.

Now you're saying "What does this have to do with the separation of church and state?" Our forefathers were tired of being oppressed for believing what they wanted. That's why they gave us the right to practice whatever religion (or no religion for that

matter) we want. No religion is forced upon a student just because someone says a prayer before school starts. I see people in public restaurants praying before they eat. Does anyone stand up and say, "Stop praying. That offends me"? Of course not. No one really cares.

Why have so many books been banned from public school libraries? Part of the reason is because parents believe these books are offensive because of their language or subjects. They object to "Tom Sawyer," because of the reference to his FRIEND "nigger Jim" in the language of the time or "The Scarlet Letter" which refers to adultery.

Read between the lines,

people. "Tom Sawyer" was not degrading blacks in any sort of way. Jim was Tom's friend.

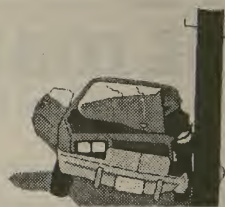
"The Scarlet Letter" is about adultery, but look at the humiliation Hester Prynne was put through. Lesson enough.

The reason behind church-state separation was to prevent forcing someone's belief on another person. Isn't banning classic literature such as this a little ridiculous, even a little hypocritical, in light of the the Bill of Rights.

In no way am I perfect. No one in this world is. Like everybody else I have an opinion. And that's mine. I'm Michael Gibson and that's the way I see it.



Reality Check



Read this column, lose 10 pounds



by Mike Pero
page editor

So there I was, strapped to a stainless steel bed in an off-beat hospital in northern California, an IV sticking out of one wrist and a three-inch steel pin out of the other. It was the same wrist that, 36 hours earlier, I had decided to land on after soaring not-so-gracefully off a 20-foot pile of hard-packed snow.

As I lay there feeling sorry for myself, heavily sedated with a cheesy, morphine-induced grin on my face, a light went off inside my head. I suddenly realized I was fine, broken wrist and all.

Society today likes to gripe. We're always complaining about what we want and can't have or what we have and don't want. If we could just get what we wished for, life would be a free ride down a greased slide.

I do not adhere to this mind-set. I will now attempt, using hypothetical situations combined with random and abstract logic, to point out its fallacies.

Let's just say that I didn't break my wrist. Let's say my trip went without a hitch; I learned all kinds of new tricks and was even featured on the cover of Transworld Snowboarding. This would be great, but it would cause me to grow

cocky which might attract the eyes of a girl whose boyfriend happens to be a local redneck named Gomer. That would cause Gomer and the mullet-haired members of his AA class to ambush me at the bottom of the hill, leaving me in worse condition than I am now. No, thanks. I think I'd rather lie in bed with my arm in a cast and this bottle of Vicodin.

What do you think would happen if, during the Superbowl, the poker-faced referee were to step outside his traditional, stoic guidelines and crack a smile while calling a successful touchdown for the team he favors? Oh, we'd see lawsuits, cries of fraud, bribery and the name of Rodney King would quickly be for-

gotten amidst the chaos that would ensue. Unfortunately, we all can't do what we want.

We've all been to the airport and seen that 30-something be-suited man who runs up and down the escalators as if the extra five seconds he saves will earn him a promotion or a midnight romp with his secretary. Wouldn't it be nice if he would slow down and consider others for a change?

Don't forget about the kids he bowls over with his synthetic snakeskin briefcase. Their impressionable minds are inspired by this jerk as they vow to someday wear a cheap suit, carry a cell phone and be the high profile dog-on-another-man's leash.

Some of you wish I would either die or graduate so you wouldn't have to shake your head and make clicking noises with your tongue every two weeks. Well, I have good news for you.

Anger is a catalyst for the secretion of adrenaline which, increases your heart rate creating a demand for additional energy which is delivered in the form of burned calories. Thus, reading this column can help you lose weight and stay in shape — indirectly, of course.

All things considered, I believe we need to quit wishing things were different and appreciate the way they are. George Bush is now our president. Get over it and move on.

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1st semester may be toughest, student survives

by Kenneth Dean
associate editor

Freshman year for anyone can be hard. This is my story. At 33, I am only a freshman in his second semester. You may wonder why.

Here is my answer. Like sons of yesterday, I followed in the work of my father: construction. Yes, it was hard. Sometimes the weather was either too hot or freezing cold, but I liked it.

The pride of standing back and looking at a job completed by one's own hands is amazing. It is a job someone must do. No construction workers — no houses, no hospitals, no schools. Get the picture?

I loved my work. I was

quite good at it and usually made a decent living. But while I was working in Victoria almost three years ago, it all came to an end.

Lifting heavy objects was nothing new. Construction work requires heavy lifting. On May 28, 1998, picking up something heavy proved to be my downfall.

Working alone on a job, I had to remove and install a water heater. The intense pain that coursed through my back told me something was definitely wrong. The emergency room doctor sent me to a neurosurgeon, which led to another and yet another.

The diagnosis was not pleasant: major back surgery.

Two lower discs would be removed and a double fusion performed.

I asked the big question: "Why?"

The same answer came from three doctors: not doing the surgery would result in paralysis from the waist down.

The surgery went as planned, but two years later pain is still sometimes unbearable. Nerve damage from the spine and discs pressing on spinal cord roots, required attention.

So just as the semester picked up speed, I again underwent surgery, this time to reduce the pain. Doctors implanted a spinal cord stimulator in my abdomen, with wires running under the skin around my side into the spinal

cord itself.

Well, it did not work. I ended up with a staph infection and spent a long week in the hospital.

Doctors had to perform two more surgeries last November, in fact, to save my life. I am finishing up some courses, but I am still doing well in school.

How are my grades? Not counting the 0302 math (which does not affect a GPA), I have around a 4.0. How many hours? Sixteen in my first semester, 15 years after I graduated from high school.

Already, I've heard so many excuses from classmates for why they flunked

a course, or why they have so many absences. Their dog had the sniffles, their dad lost his \$40 hairpiece or their hangover from last night.

My advice: get over it and study like everyone else who makes their way through college. We all have problems to face. Some are just worse than others.

I wish to thank my girlfriend, family, my instructors, the Texas Rehabilitation Commission and TJC's Support Services for all the encouragement and help. They will continue to see my best efforts to further myself and show my gratitude for this second chance on life.

Remember, if I can do it, so can you. See you in class.

Resumes help open doors to jobs

by Ashley Tompkins
page editor

While most students do not hold professional jobs in their fields, in a few years many will rely on a professional resume to help them get that job.

"A resume will get you in the door when you graduate," Melinda Coker, Career Planning and Placement Services director, said. "A resume is what gets you an interview. You have to have one."

Many factors play into producing a professional resume. Coker said most businesses

want a resume in reverse chronological order.

"This allows them to see your most recent accomplishments first. If they have 20,000 applicants for one job, they are not going to go through and read 20,000 full resumes," she said.

"If your resume looks worse than the others, they will throw it in the trash," Coker said. A bent corner, coffee stains, folds — they look at every detail. Keep this in mind when forming a resume and sending it."

You must also link the job description to the skills you have, Coker said.

"With these 20,000 resumes, the human resources office looks for certain words and phrases in your resume that links to the job description. If your resume doesn't contain familiar phrases, it's thrown away with most others," she said.

"You have to get their attention fast, but do not lie on your resume," she said. Human resources staffs do not normally know what job they are trying to

fill. "All they have is a job description and a ton of resumes," Coker said.

"Do not include references in your resume unless they are asked for. Remember a resume should only be one page," she advised.

Coker suggests applicants keep a list of references and take it to an interview because the employer will probably ask for them.

"You will want to have professional references, such as previous bosses and

others you have worked with, and also personal references. These include pastors and any others who know you personally, preferably adults," Coker said.

Resumes should be printed on white or off-white paper slightly heavier than normal computer paper.

Coker offers resume and interview classes to prepare students for graduation. For more information call the Career Planning and Placement Services at 510-2390.

TJC News to sell Valentine ads

by Hannah Buchanan
page editor

It's that time of year again to tell that special someone how much you really care. While most go with the traditional chocolate and flower giving, why not take a different approach. TJC News will sell valentine ads this year.

Ads cost \$3 for 15 words

or less. Additional words cost 10 cents each. All messages must be in good taste.

Please fill out the form in this newspaper and return the information to the News room in Potter 204 no later than Feb. 5.

Payment is expected upon delivery of the form. For more information call 510-2299.

Tell Someone You Love Them...

Put your valentine message in the Feb. 12 TJC News

Ads cost \$3 for 15 words or less. Additional words cost 10 cents each. All messages must be in good taste. Please return information to the News room in Potter 204 by Feb. 5. For more information call 510-2299. Payment is expected upon delivery of completed form

Your name (please print): _____
Message: _____

Look at prison life surprises students

by Ashley Tompkins
page editor

Cold iron bars, a small bed with no pillow and a toilet — all in the same cell. Yes, cell.

"Prison is a lot like Tyler," Recovery Ministries Director Ron Cowden said. "Not everything is as pretty as it seems."

Cowden visits prisons as part of his outreach ministry. Through his many visits, Cowden has witnessed events that would shock most but revealed the truth of prison life.

"I knew this guy who was in general population. He was being beaten and raped. I called the chaplain to let him know what was going on and to find out if it was true," Cowden said.

The chaplain knew this brutality had been going on he told Cowden, "He must like it because he doesn't fight back."

"You do what you have to do. Prison and the other inmates become your society. Just like here at college. Your society is you classmates and the people you see each day," he said.

This "society" is much

different than what most outsiders see, Cowden said.

"State jails are like going to high school again. They (prisoners) do their time, but there is no treatment," Cowden said.

"We think prison is one way, but it's completely different," he said.

The system contains so much corruption. Guards turn their backs so that the pris-



oners can do as they like, Cowden said.

Part of this corruption includes mail fraud.

"Inmates earned \$70,000 writing letters to churches two years ago," Cowden said. "They write churches because they know that churches are more sympathetic and want to make a difference."

The money that they ask for in prison goes on their "books."

"The criminals in prison aren't allowed to have money so they have to get it from the

outside world and put it on their books," Cowden said. This is their spending money.

"You can always tell who the rich criminals are because they have the best shoes and they have all of the great snacks and don't have to eat the food from the cafeteria."

Inmates are given 20 postage stamps a month, soap and toothpaste. They receive all the essential items they need, but if they want snack food they have to buy it.

While prisoners are not allowed to have money in their hands, some do. The majority of the money goes to buy cigarettes.

"Cigarettes cost \$3 apiece in prisons. The inmates are able to purchase these — most of the time through guards," Cowden said. "This is a great example showing that the guards turn their backs and let things slide."

Cell mates don't just target churches.

"I know this woman who was engaged to a man in prison. She was a devout Christian. After awhile of writing letters back and forth

to one another, the man asked her to take nude photos of herself," Cowden recalls. "She took the photos and had them sent to her fiancé in prison."

Later she received another letter telling her if she did not put \$500 on his books, he would mail copies to her mother, pastor and hand them out to other inmates.

"He was extorting money, but you know there was nothing illegal about what he was doing," Cowden said.

"The warden knew that he had the photos and took a chance. Luckily for the lady he gave them to the warden."

It all boils down to respect, Cowden said.

"This people in prison will do whatever they have to do to get respect. They have to stand up for themselves," Cowden said.

"Even if you get beaten up in a fight, you still have respect from the other prisoners because you stood up for yourself and didn't take anything from anybody," he explained.

Despite all, Cowden has seen, he still believes that some inmates can change, although it may take some time.

"It's really hard for them

once they get out, because, like I said, the prison becomes their society. Once they get into the free world, the temptations become so great and they can't handle it," the minister said.

He has to believe that there are those who will make it once they reach the outside world, he said.

"I had one guy who came to all my meetings and was released from prison. The real test begins when they get out because now they are faced with a new world they haven't been living in. This guy came to the center because we also try to help them get back on their feet when they get out with a few things."

Through this help, Cowden can tell who will make it and who will be returning to prison.

"All this guy wanted was two sets of utensils to eat with, two beds and two sets of dishes for him and his son."

Most people would want a television, stereo and VCR, he said. This man just wanted to spend time with his son and talk to him about his past and let him know that there are other options.

Underage drinking popular with college students

by Kenneth Dean
associate editor

College and drinking go together like french fries and ketchup, but that creates a problem—1900 TJC students are under 21.

"Fake IDs, liquor stores and older friends are how minors get the alcohol," said Relations Officer Chris Moore with the Tyler Police Department.

Fake IDs are not worth the penalty, Moore said. This class C misdemeanor can lead to immediate sus-

pension of a driver's license. A person charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor commits a class B misdemeanor. A person who sells alcohol to a minor commits a class A misdemeanor. Is the law funny or what?

A minor is anyone under 21, but the courts sometimes charge 17-year olds and up as adults. The reason for the severe penalties are the number of offenses committed.

In 1999 Tyler police

charged 449 DWI's, 586 with public intoxication and 100 with drug or alcohol related traffic accidents.

"As of September 27, 134 have been charged with minor in possession," Moore said.

A minor in possession first offense conviction is usually community service, but second offenses can land one in jail for up to 180 days with a fine up to \$2000.

Parties are fun and everyone wants to attend, just

remember the laws. If those partying are underage and the police arrive, chances are a black mark on the drinker's record will probably stick with the drinker for the rest of his or her life. For those charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor it could be more than just a mark.

"This semester as of date we have only had two cases of M.I.P." Students over 21 are dealt under administrative means," Randy Melton, TJC campus safety director,

said.

The rules of conduct on page 19 of the student handbook define in articles 8 and nine alcohol and drug regulations of TJC.

"There are random drug and alcohol checks of the dorms. However, most of the time nothing is found, the drug sniffing dog helps to insure compliance," Melton said.

The statistics in the student handbook show there has been 26 liquor violations since 1997.

Avalon performs at Cowan Center

by Clay Branson
page editor

Christian mega-stars Avalon, who have produced 12 No. 1 singles, two gold albums, five Dove Awards and a recent Grammy nomination, performed at the Cowan Center at UT-Tyler Saturday.

They just finished their fifth studio release "Oxygen" to be out in late spring.

"It's different than our last albums," Avalon member Michael Passons explained in a phone interview.

"It is more organic, has more accoustic sounds, but it still keeps the pop sound," Passons said.

Their Christmas album "Joy" was nominated for a Grammy, which surprised

the group.

"That was a weird day for me, because I wrecked my Range Rover on the way to the Loew's Vanderbilt Plaza," Passons said. "The other members (Jody McBrayer, Janna Long and Cherie Paliotta) were out celebrating."

They got their big break in 1998 when their song "Testify to Love" became the longest-running No. 1 single in Christian music history.

"We never thought it would be this successful. We might not have as big a hit again like 'Testify to Love,'" Passons explained.

"No one knows how big a song will be, but once it was recorded and mixed, we knew it was something spe-

cial," he said.

The success of "Testify to Love" led to their Dove Award for Best New Artist.

"That was a very memorable night because my family was there," Passons explained.

Avalon also has a great relationship with their fans, talking to them and signing endless autographs before and after concerts.

"It is a good connection. You get to know who your fans are and they mean more to you than the music because without fans, you are not as successful," Passons said.

With 12 No. 1 hits, Avalon shows no sign of slowing down anytime soon.



Courtesy Photo

Avalon Singers are, left-right: Janna Long, Jody McBrayer, Cherie Paliotta and Michael Passons.

Globetrotters celebrate 75 years

by Kenneth Dean
associate editor

Even before the game started, it was clear the night was to be full of wild antics and deep belly laughs.

The Globetrotters, like TJC, celebrate their 75th anniversary this year. Their long reputation of goodwill characterizes the team who have brought laughter and fun to 115 countries.

Paul "Showtime" Gaffney,

their leading man on the court, said "the absence of racism, sexism, ageism and economics at and during the games are the best things I have experienced."

Before the game, a few players talked to area youth about the importance of school and learning. Gaffney told them 95 percent of the Globetrotters have college degrees and the others are working toward one. "We're not only the best B-ball team, but also the smartest,"

he said.

The New York Nationals, a semi-pro team, fared all right, considering their opponents. The Globetrotters won 82 to 59, but everyone, including the Nationals, had fun.

Children of all ages laughed at the zaniness of the Globetrotters. They play seven months a year, almost every night and yet the crowds well-pleased.

The 2100 who attended the game came away with smiles on their faces and joy in their hearts.

Family Man warms heart, soul

by Jennifer Murray
advertising manager

In "The Family Man," with Nicolas Cage and Tea Leoni, sparks fly. A man gets to look at the life he might have lived, had he made different choices 13 years earlier.

Jack (Cage) is a successful businessman who is visited by an angel named Cash, (Don Cheadle). Cash shows him what his life could have been if he had married his college sweetheart Kate (Leoni).

The story simply says "don't let a good thing get away." Jack lost Kate by go-

ing to London for a year, when she wanted him to stay. He never married or had children.

In his other life, Jack sees that even though he would not have been as successful, he would have been happier. Cash says to Jack he can go to his other life, when he learns what he needs to know. He meets his children Annie and Josh and finds a different love and life. He goes bowling with his friends, works at a tire store his father-in-law owns and takes his family to the mall for weekend shopping. He finds out what makes him happy,

and tries desperately to stay there.

Jack wakes up one morning back in his own life, more miserable than ever. So he decides to find Kate, and tell her that he never stopped loving her.

The ending was really beautiful with Kate and Jack talking over coffee. It leaves the audience to wonder what really happened.

Did they stay together and build a family, or did they leave each other again to be miserable? What's good about these movies? You get to choose your ending.

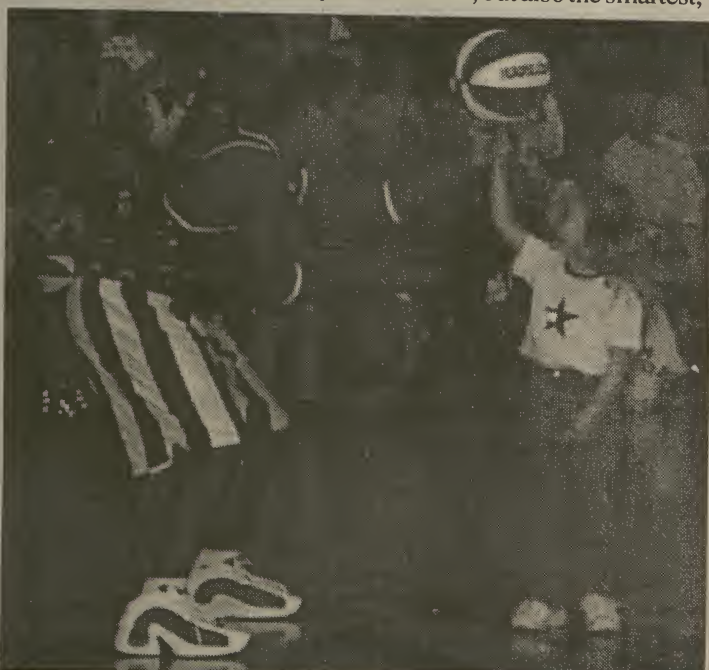


Photo by Kenneth Dean

Wild antics as Harlem Globetrotters entertain a full capacity Wagstaff gym.

Elaine Chao explains volunteerism to students

Stacie Drinning
advertising manager

Elaine Chao, former Peace Corps director, told students about both sides of volunteerism recently when she visited TJC as an enrichment speaker.

Born in China, Chao and her family came to this country when she was only eight years old after a 30-day boat journey, they met volunteers who helped her family make the huge transitions to integrate into American society. Chao, former president of the United Way, had her life changed by this first encounter with volunteerism, as a

recipient.

"Hope is the main part," Chao said. "When given hope, you can do anything." That is the message she tries to convey to volunteers in both organizations.

You have to be able to appeal to the heart of the volunteer," she said.

From giving an African native his first pair of glasses to giving a burned 4-year-old hope, Chao's main message was that when we, as people, volunteer, great things happen.

"Volunteerism is an essential part of American culture." It is Chao's belief, after traveling all over the world, that only in

America do strangers help one another to strengthen community bonds.

For example, more than 2 percent of all annual income, from the street vendor to the lawyer,

goes to volunteer organizations in this country. In 1999 giving increased by about 16 percent.

Chao spoke of unity, "helping thy neighbor" and

volunteerism bonding the world.

But her main emphasis was that you can, "do anything if you . . . work hard, believe in the promise of America and dedicate yourself to the cause."

Bush nominates Chao to Cabinet

Stacie Drinning
advertising manager

Elaine Chao, recent enrichment speaker for TJC, was named to the position of Secretary of Labor under the Bush administration earlier this month.

Chao was actually the second choice for the cabinet position. First in line for the position, Linda Chavez, had her name removed from consideration after it was discovered she had employed and housed an illegal alien for a period of time.

Chao graduated from Harvard Business School in 1979 and received the universities highest honor, the Graduate School of Busi-

ness Alumni Achievement Award, in 1993.

Prior to joining the Peace Corps Chao was the Deputy Secretary of the US Department of Transportation. In which she was second in command over a \$30 billion budget and over 100,000 employees. During her federal government service Chao became the highest ranking Asian Pacific American in the history of the executive branch of government. She also turned the United Way back into a legitimate non-profit organization after prior mismanagement.

With all of her accomplishments, it is no surprise that President Bush appointed Chao to his cabinet.

College recruiting to begin Feb. 12

by Coretta Williams
page editor

Senior colleges will send representatives to campus the next few months to recruit transfer students.

Texas A&M-Commerce recruiters will be on campus: 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Feb 12 in Jenkins Hall; Tues-

day, March 20 and Wednesday, April 11.

East Texas Baptist University will be on campus 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 2.

Those who want more information on colleges recruiting here can contact Admissions Secretary Pat Beam at 510-2398.

Belles to head to Big Apple

Kristi Flippin
staff writer

The Apache Belles will travel to New York City April 26-29 with funding from former members.

The current team sent letters and called Belles alumni seeking donations. They received more than \$20,000 for the trip and even more toward scholarships.

"By fall semester of next year we hope to have full scholarships for every Belle, that will pay tuition and fees, books and uniform expenses," Apache Belle Director Ruth Flynn said.

The Belles currently receive \$500 for each semester.

Mission

Continued from page 2

The weather, hot and dry, is totally different than humid East Texas. It does not get cool until evening arrives. Many children come out at night to play, rather in the day when it is so hot.

While in New York the Belles plan to take dance classes from nationally-acclaimed choreographers, like Steven Boyd.

"We have worked with Steven before and he always brings new ideas to his outstanding class sessions," Dance Caption Lezlee O'Kelly said.

They also are looking forward to attending a Broadway show, seeing the Statue of Liberty and shopping at the finest stores in the nation, Flynn said.

"I have never been out of Texas, so I am extremely excited about going to the Big Apple," freshman Tara McMullin said.

All these experiences and memories continue to remind me of how much one can learn when one overcomes their fear of leaving their own comfort zone.

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Texas Rangers sign A-Rod to largest contract in sports history

by Clay Bransom
page editor

When superstar shortstop Alex Rodriguez signed the biggest contract in sports history with the Texas Rangers Dec. 10, 2000, many questions popped up.

The 25-year-old former Seattle Mariner shortstop signed a 10-year, \$252 million dollar contract plus a \$10 million signing bonus.

Many wondered if he is worth it, why he's paid that much and why the Texas Rangers?

The Rangers were the only team really interested in signing him.

The New York Yankees

already have superstar shortstop Derek Jeter.

When the New York Mets expressed interest, A-Rod said he would never play there.

Other big market clubs like the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Atlanta Braves never showed any interest.

The Colorado Rockies wanted him to hit home runs in hitter-friendly Coors Field, but they'd already spent \$171 million dollars for pitchers Mike Hampton and Denny Neagle.

The Mariners, A-Rod's former club, offered him a three-year, out in two years contract, but he didn't want that. He wanted at least a 10-year deal.

Then came the Rangers.

Rangers Owner Thomas O. Hicks' track record impressed A-Rod.

Hicks, who owns the NHL's Dallas Stars, brought in superstars Brett Hull, Eddie Belfour and Joe Nieuwendyk plus re-signing Mike Modano. Hicks' Stars have won four division titles, two President's Trophies, two Western Conference Titles, and earned a Stanley Cup in 1999.

Hicks bought the Rangers in 1998 for \$250 million dollars, \$2 million less than he will pay A-Rod.

Hicks made A-Rod feel wanted. He had Modano drive him around Dallas-Fort Worth. Texas has a big Latino com-

munity, as well as Latino players Pudge Rodriguez, Rafeal Palmeiro and Ruben Mateo, which might have made him feel more comfortable.

A-Rod said, "If someone wins the lottery, they are a hero. When someone works their butt off, they are the devil."

People question: Is he worth the money? Why Texas?

Most national media are not big Texas fans, so they criticize the deal.

Hicks had the money. Hicks wanted him and the Rangers needed him.

Rangers also got Andres Galaragga and Ken Caminiti in the free agent market, giving them one of the most po-

tent lineups in the game.

Oakland will be tough in the American League West, but A-Rod is worth the \$252 million. He has had high expectations all his life.

The Rangers won't turn into the Washington Redskins of baseball because Hicks is a better owner than Daniel Snyder. A-Rod will not let this contract go to his head. He is a class individual going to a class organization. In the long run, he will lead the Rangers to a few World Series titles.

Welcome to Texas, A-Rod. You're worth it. We can be glad he's not playing in New York.

Basketball Schedule

Jan. 31 Apache Men's Basketball vs. Blinn College, Brenham, 8 p.m.	Jan. 31 Apache Women's Basketball vs. Blinn College Brenham, 6 p.m.
Feb. 3 Apache Men's Basketball vs. Kilgore College Wagstaff Gym, 8 p.m.	Feb. 3 Apache Women's Basketball vs. Kilgore College Wagstaff Gym, 6 p.m.
Feb. 7 Apache Men's Basketball vs. Trinity Valley CC Wagstaff Gym, 8 p.m.	Feb. 7 Apache Women's Basketball vs. Trinity Valley CC Wagstaff Gym, 6 p.m.
Feb. 10 Apache Men's Basketball vs. Jacksonville College Jacksonville, 7:30 p.m.	Feb. 10 Apache Women's Basketball vs. Jacksonville College Jacksonville, 6 p.m.

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Apaches win conference title

by Clay Bransom
page editor

The Apache Football Team accomplished their season goal when they beat Northeastern Oklahoma A&M University 23-21 Dec. 2, 2000, at Pennington Field in Bedford. The win clinched the Southwest Junior College Football Conference Title.

Wide receiver Tray Porter ran a reverse for 34 yards for the first Apache score. NEO later scored 10 points for a three point lead at halftime. TJC tied the game at 10 in the third period on a Brandon

Stroud field goal. Later in the third, Travis House grabbed a 6-yard pass from quarterback Jeff Hilliard to put the Apaches ahead by seven.

The fourth quarter was a case of post-season drama. Wide Receiver John Wingate's only catch of the day was crucial, going in 8 yards for the touchdown to make it a 23-14 game.

NEO countered with a 62 yard- touchdown, cutting the Apache lead to two.

In their final shot at winning, with 50 seconds left, NEO

missed a 24-yard field goal, the Apaches ran out the clock for the victory.

"There were a couple of crucial calls that went against us," Defensive Coordinator Eule Ford said. "We didn't think that they would make the field goal at the end."

Linebacker Tommy Perry was named the games Most Valuable Player. Running Backs Olan Coleman and Robert Lolohea combined for 185 of the Apaches 209 total rushing yards.

Basketball continues conference play

by Clay Bransom
page editor

The Apache Men's and Women's basketball teams continue conference play this week with crucial games.

The Apache Ladies are 13-5 overall, 2-0 in conference play and ranked 23rd in the nation. They beat Panola College 81-31 last week, and won a nail-biter over Paris College 81-78. As last year's national champs, All

opponents are gunning at them.

"It has been a tough schedule, but the toughest has yet to come," Head Coach Triena Tillis said. "We have played hard and our best is yet to come." Tillis added.

The Men are 8-10 overall and 4-6 in conference play this season. They beat Navarro College, 63-62, last week, but lost to Paris College 84-70.

"The league is tough and

we have played a lot of tough games this year," Head Coach Chris Crutchfield said. "Anybody can beat anybody on any given night, and we have to take it a game at a time."

Both teams will play Blinn College Wednesday in Brenham, but come home Saturday to play Kilgore College. They will host arch-rival Trinity Valley Community College Feb. 7.